

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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APPROVED BY IO - MR BAKER

EA - MR. GLEYSTEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052255

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:UNGA, KS, JA

SUBJECT: INITIAL CORE GROUP MEETING: JAPANESE APPROACH

1. JAPANESE POLITICAL COUNSELOR KURIYAMA CALLED ON KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR MARCH 3 TO CONVEY GOJ REQUEST THAT WE AND ROKG CONSIDER DELAYING INITIAL CORE GROUP MEETING AT LEAST UNTIL WEEK OF MARCH 22. KURIYAMA EXPLAINED THAT RANKING FONOFF OFFICIALS WILL BE INVOLVED WITH DIET UNTIL AT LEAST THAT PERIOD. (KURIYAMA THOUGHT THAT OKAWA HAD BEEN PLANNING TO ATTEND CORE GROUP MEETING.)

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2. KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR INDICATED THAT WHILE WE

OBVIOUSLY WOULD DEFER TO THE CONSENSUS OF THE CORE GROUP RE TIMING OF THE INITIAL MEETING, U.S. DID BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT WE BEGIN DIALOGUE WITHIN CORE GROUP AS EARLY AS FEASIBLE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD HOPE THAT INITIAL MEETING WOULD NOT BE DELAYED BEYOND MIDDLE OF MARCH.

3. KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR INDICATED TO KURIYAMA THAT WE VIEW INITIAL CORE GROUP MEETING AS BEGINNING OF PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS. WE WOULD SEE INITIAL MEETING AS ALLOWING FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION WE FACE AT THE UPCOMING UNGA AND DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE OPTIONS. WE WOULD NOT SEE THIS MEETING AS OCCASION FOR MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS. ALSO EXPLAINED THAT DEPARTMENT INTENDED TO SEND UP THOSE OFFICERS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING KOREAN QUESTION AND DID NOT ENVISION REPRESENTATION AT ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL.

4. KURIYAMA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EXPLANATION AND PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH AFTER HE RECEIVED TOKYO'S VIEWS.

5. IN BRIEF GENERAL EXCHANGE, KURIYAMA AGAIN MENTIONED JAPANESE CONCERN ABOUT APPARENT KOREAN DESIRE TO ADOPT A "PASSIVE" APPROACH TO UPCOMING UNGA. KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR INDICATED THAT KOREA HAD ALSO TAKEN SIMILAR APPROACH TO US. AS A RESULT OF OUR CONSULTATIONS WE THOUGHT THAT THE ROKG HAD ADOPTED A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO CONSULTATIONS WITHIN CORE GROUP BUT KOREANS STILL REMAIN EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS. KURIYAMA ASKED WHETHER ANY CHANGE IN U.S. VIEWS ON UNILATERAL TERMINATION OF UN COMMAND. KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR INDICATED THAT WE STILL REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS WITH REGARD TO ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND THE SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA. (IN PERSONAL NOTE, KURIYAMA INDICATED THAT FONOFF INCREASINGLY DUBIOUS ABOUT FEASIBILITY UNILATERAL UNC TERMINATION.)

6. COMMENT: WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE DICTATING
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TIMING OF CORE GROUP'S MEETING OR REPRESENTATION. AT SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WISH TO DELAY INITIAL MEETING UNDULY OR TO ENCOURAGE REPRESENTATION FROM CAPITALS AT UNDULY HIGH LEVEL. WE FEAR THIS CAN ONLY LEAD TO EXAGGERATED IMPORTANCE BEING GIVEN TO INITIAL MEETING. IF FEASIBLE, HOPE EMPASSY TOKYO CAN ENCOURAGE JAPANESE TO ACCEPT EARLIER MARCH DATE. END COMMENT.

7. IF APPROACHED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS, INFO ADDRESSEES
MAY DRAW ON PARAS 2, 3 AND 5 AT THEIR DISCRETION.

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